GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2747
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005
FERTILIZER PRICES IN W.B.
Barman Shri Hiten;Baxla Shri Joachim;Bose Shri Subrata

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that fertilizer prices in West Bengal are increasing at an alarming rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaint about black marketing of fertilizers in the State; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to curb this black marketing and supply the fertilizer at the subsidised price to the farmers of West Bengal, particularly Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d): With the objective of making available fertilizers to farmers at affordable prices, urea, being the only controlled fertilizer, is sold at statutorily notified maximum retail price (MRP), and the decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, such as DAP, MOP and NPK complexes are sold at indicative MRPs. MRP of single super phosphate is indicated by the respective State Governments. MRP/indicative MRPs of urea and decontrolled phosphatic and potassic fertilizers except SSP are uniform throughout the country including West Bengal. Selling prices of fertilizers have not been increased since 28.2.2002. A marginal increase in selling prices of fertilizers announced on 28.2.2003 was withdrawn w.e.f 12.3.2003.

No complaint of black marketing of fertilizers in the State of West Bengal has been received during 2004-05. Under clause 21 of the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO), 1985, it is mandatory to print the maximum retail price on the container of all kinds of fertilizers, whether under statutory price control or out of the purview of the statutory price control. No person shall charge higher than the price printed on the bag. Any person violating this mandatory provision of FCO is held liable to be proceeded against for administrative/punitive measures under the provisions of FCO and Essential Commodities Act. The State Governments are the enforcement agencies and are adequately empowered to take appropriate action against the offender who indulge in any kind of malpractices.